

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /084 W

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R 271800Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7700

INFO AMEMBASSYBONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 1466

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UN, SF, WA, US, MR

SUBJECT: JOINT DEMARCHE TO MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT ON NAMIBIA

REF: (A) USUN 1964, (B) STATE 143426(C) NOUAKCHOTT 1410

(NOTAL)

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR REMOVILLE, GERMAN AMBASSADOR NAGEL, AND I BRIEFED MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT MOKHTAR OULD DADDAH JUNE 24 ON NAMIBIA DISCUSSIONS FIVE NATION CONTACT GROUP HAS HAD IN CAPETWON WITH GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA, (BRITISH AND CANADAIN AMBASSADORS TO MAURITANIA ARE RESIDENT IN DAKAR). IN INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, I (AS SENIOR COM) STATED CONTACT GROUP HAD MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF NAMIBIA PROBLEM; FIVE GOVERNMENTS HAD THEREFORE CONCLUDED IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO BRIEF ALL OAU CHIEFS OF STATE OR FOREIGN MINISTERS PRIOR TO LIBREVILLE CONFERENCE; FIVE NATIONS HOPE OAU STATES WILL SUPPORT EFFORTS OF WESTERN FIVE ON NAMIBIA, OR AT MINIMUM WILL RESERVE THEIR JUDGEMENT AND NOT MAKE PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENT WHICH WOULD FURTHER
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COMPLICATE AN ALREADY COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT PROBLEM; THAT FIVE WERE SEEKING NEGOTIATED, PEACEFUL, AND POLITICAL SOLUTION. FRENCH AMBASSADOR THEN SUMMARIZED, PARAGRAPH BY PARAGRAPH, NEW YORK TEXT (REF A). REMOVILLE DECIDED AGAINST READING HIS TRANSLATION OF NEW YORK MEMORANDUM (REF C) FOR FEAR PRESIDENT WOULD REQUEST COPY OF TEXT.

2. DURING COURSE OF BRIEFING PRESIDENT APPEARED TO BE IMPRESSED BY PROGRESS CONTACT GROUP HAS MADE WITH SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. AT CONCLUSION, PRESIDENT ASKED ONLY "WHEN DO YOUR GOVERNMENTS THINK PROPOSED TRANSITION PERIOD WILL BEGIN?" REMOVILLE RESPONDED THAT INSTRUCTIONS DID NOT PROVIDE EXPLICIT INDICATION, BUT JUDGING FROM NUMBER OF COMPLEX TASKS WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED, SUGGESTED BEGINNING 1978 AS EARLIST POSSIBLE DATE. NAGEL OBSERVED AGREEMENT AND ACTIVE SUPPORT OF UN SYG HAD TO BE OBTAINED AND STRUCTURE OF UN INVOLVEMENT CREATED AND PUT IN PLACE. I NOTED THAT NECESSARY PRIOR STEP WAS DEVELOPMENT OF CONSENSUS OF AFRICAN STATES AND UN SC MEMBERS, WHICH COULD ADVANCE OR DELAY IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE DEPENDING ON REACTIONS OF OAU AND UN MEMBERS.

3. PRESIDENT THEN OBSERVED (A) OF THREE SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS, N AMIBIA LENT ITSELF MOST EASILY TO UN SOLUTION;
(B) FACT THAT ALL OAU CHIEFS OF STATE WERE BEING BRIEFED BY 5 SC MEMBERS AND WOULD HAVE COMPARABLE INFORMATION ON NAMIBIA PROBLEM WOULD ENHANCE THEIR DISCUSSION OF PROBLEM IN LIBREVILLE;
AND (C) OFF THE RECORD , THAT MAJORITY OF OAU CHIEFS OF STATE WERE MODERATES WHO PREFERRED PEACEFUL, NEGOTIATED SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS, AND WHILE HE COULD NOT PREDICT THEIR REACTION TO WORK OF CONTACT GROUP, FACT THAT LATTER HAD OBTAINED SOUTH AFRICAN AGREEMENT TO SERIES OF IMPORTANT POINTS WOULD CARRY GREAT WEIGHT.

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4. AS HE USHERED US TO DOOR, PRESIDENT DECLARED HE WOULD UPON HIS RETURN FROM LIBREVILLE COMMUNICATE TO US COLLECTIVELY OR INDIVIDUALLY ANY INDICATION OF OAU DISCUSSION/ACTION WHICH HE WAS AT LIBERTY TO PASS ALONG.

HANDYSIDE

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Message Attributes

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